



# Weekly wrap up

Friday, August 12, 2005

contact : rob.johnson@state.tn.us

## The Name of the Game

*Commissioner Miller:*

*If you don't put it in TNKids, it didn't happen*

During the past three months, we have made giant strides in generating management data from TNKids. We have checked and double-checked reports to make certain that we are pulling data sets in a manner that answers specific questions. For instance, "What percentage of DCS children have two or fewer placement moves during the time they are in DCS custody?" Or "How many of our children are visited at least once each month?" And so on.

Remember, though: The information we are getting is only as good as the information being put into the system.

My fear is that you are not getting credit for a great deal of the good work you are doing because the information is not in TNKids. For example, the data from TNKids say that only a small percentage of our children with a goal of reunification are having monthly visits with their birth parents.

One of two things is happening: Either the quality-of-care work is not being done or the visits are not being logged into TNKids.

I prefer to believe the latter explanation. We all know how very important these visits are when it comes to strengthening families.

You cannot get credit for the good work you do unless you let TNKids know that you're doing it.

Accountability is not a choice. We must report to the legislators, the plaintiffs' attorneys, the Technical Advisory Committee and the feds. Let's commit to making certain that all good work is reflected in our management data.

**Viola Miller**

# **Hardeman County Foster Parent Picnic**

*Rain falls; hot dogs consumed nevertheless.*

The Hardeman Co. Foster Parent Picnic was held at St. James Episcopal Church. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken were prepared for all to eat. Due to rain the picnic was held inside. The children where able to play games and toys were provided by the department. The Resource parents were given gifts to show our appreciation for all the support and love that they give to our children. The church has hosted the picnic for years and looks forward to participating and partnering with the department. Kudos to St. James Episcopal Church for their Mission. Staff present: Yalunda McClatchen, Elizabeth Lax, Corsella Murphy, Chandra Cheairs.

**Yalunda McClatchen**

# **Tri-Counties Foster Parent Picnic**

*No, Let's Not Forget the Sno Cones*

As you pulled up to the DCS office, you could see the giant lion filled with air just waiting to be jumped in. On the other side of the parking lot you could see a giant blue water slide just waiting to be occupied. There was also a dunking booth on the parking lot. The children were each given a gift and there were plenty of toys and games for them to play and participate in. Let's not forget the food, hot dogs, pizza, Sno cones, cotton candy, cake, and ice cream. The foster parents were given door prizes and thanked for their continued perseverance as Tender Healers for our children.

Staff present: Elizabeth Coleman, William Austin, Yalunda McClatchen and other throughout the evening.

**Yalunda McClatchen**

# Commissioner amasses giant stuffed toy collection

*Donates it to some deserving kids; eats birthday cake*



Wednesday, DCS gathered outside the commissioner's office to celebrate her birthday with cookies, cake -- and these invited guests. They are destined for DCS kids around the state. The commissioner says, "Thank you very much, everyone."